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STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector



1961

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STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman: Councillor P. W. King.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor E. Westbrook

Councillors:

O. R. Adamson, M. I. L. Ashdown, Mrs. D. M. Benen-Stock,
L. L. Evans, F. L. George, R. V. C. Grace, R. W. Hudson, A. Porter,
F. W. Smith.

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health (part-time):

L. A. MATHESON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.C.H.,
Council Offices, Bridge Street, Staines. Tel.: Staines 55955.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

JOHN MULLIN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.I.HSG.

Qualifications

1.2.4.5.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

P. F. PACKHAM, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., (died 20.5.61). 1.2.3.

R. I. SHEPHERD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., appointed 3.7.61.

1.2.5.

Public Health Inspectors:

G. A. EVANS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

1.2.5.

G. WALTON, M.R.S.H., appointed 1.9.61.

1.2.

Assistants for Rodent Control and Clean Air Act:

H. A. CROUCHER.

A. H. FULLER.

Senior Clerk:

Miss L. M. PERRYMAN.

Assistant Clerk and Shorthand Typist:

Miss P. E. REEVE.

Junior Clerk:

MISS D. A. BENTALL, appointed 4.4.61

Key to qualifications—

1. Certificate of the Royal Society of Health and Public Health Inspectors Board.
2. Certificate of the Royal Society of Health as Inspector of Meat and other foods.
3. Certificate of the Royal Society of Health as Smoke Inspector.
4. Certificate of the Royal Society of Health in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.
5. Diploma of the Institute of Housing in Estate Management.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
of
STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1961.

There was an increase in the number of suicides during 1961, ten deaths from this cause being registered compared with five in 1960. This is ten times the number in each of the years 1951 and 1952, when the population was 10,000 less than it is now. Nine of the deaths from suicides were of men, of these five were retired men who had held skilled occupations. Of the four remaining their ages ranged from 33 to 54 and all were in skilled occupations. Six of the deaths were by gas poisoning, one from strangulation due to hanging, and one from barbiturate poisoning.

It does seem that many men are ill-prepared to face retirement from their occupations and more attention should be paid to preparation for retirement.

The present interest in the maintenance of mental health and of measures conducive to this end should have redoubled interest in the light of such tragedies.

It may well be asked whether everything possible is being done in this age and generation to create an improved climate in mental health. The avowed would-be suicide used to be thought to be seeking to focus more attention on himself, now-a-days the suicide is all too often successful.

With full employment and earlier marriage the birth rate at 18.67 live births per thousand population continues to rise and there was also a small increase in the illegitimate births. There was a decrease in the infantile mortality rate, but this is not a reliable rate taken on so small a number of deaths since only sixteen infant deaths occurred. Still births also decreased; any fall in the still birth rate is welcome, since this means a saving of valuable infant lives.

Bathing in the River Thames continues to be a popular fine weather recreation in this area, and it has been pointed out on a number of previous occasions that the impurity of the Thames makes this most undesirable.

During 1961 this Department lost the services of Mr. P. F. Packham, Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, by his untimely death after a long illness. He was a man of outstanding ability who was unfailing in his efforts to give service to the public, and this Department and the community are the poorer by his death.

This report again gives me the opportunity to express my personal thanks to all Members of the Department for their work throughout the year and particularly to Mr. J. Mullin, Chief Public Health Inspector. The work of the Department would however be unavailing if it did not receive the support and endorsement of the Council, and I am very grateful to the members for the support and encouragement I continue to receive.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. A. MATHESON.

Summary of Statistics

Area — 8,271 acres.

Population (Estimated mid-1961)	...	...	...	49,570
Number of Houses, Bungalows and Flats at 1.4.61	...	...	...	14,931
Rateable Value at 1.4.61	...	...	...	£937,980
Sum represented by a penny rate at 1st April, 1961	...	...	...	£3,840

Summary of Vital Statistics

<i>Live Births</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	490	469	959
Illegitimate	...	...	...	30	17	47
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				520	486	1,006
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Live Birth Rate</i> (per thousand population)	...	...	...			20.29
Comparability factor is 0.92 giving adjusted birth rate of	...	...	...	...	...	18.67
Birth Rate England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	17.4
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	...	...	...	...	4.67
<i>Still Births</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	8	5	13
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	1	1
<i>Still Birth Rate</i> per 1,000 Live and Still Births	...	...	...			13.73
Still Birth Rate England and Wales	...	...	...			18.7
<i>Total Live and Still Births</i>	...	...	...	...	...	1,020
<i>Deaths</i>						
				Male	...	214
				Female	...	214
				<hr/>		<hr/>
				428		
				<hr/>		<hr/>
<i>Death Rate</i> (per thousand population)	...	...	...			8.6
Comparability factor is 1.29, giving adjusted death rate of	...	...	...	...	...	11.1
Death Rate England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	12.0
Infant Deaths under one year	...	...	...	...	...	16
Infant Mortality Rate (per thousand live births)	...	...	...	...	...	15.9
Infant Mortality Rate England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	21.4
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	16.7
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	—
Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	10.93
Early Neo-natal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	8.95
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	22.5
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...	...	...	...	...	—
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	—

Causes of Death

<i>Disease</i>						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	5	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	16	8
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	1	8
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	24	20
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	18	42
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	46	21
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	11	6
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	22	25
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	7	8
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	9	20
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	13	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	10	25
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	9	1
Homicide and operation of war	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
						<hr/> 214	<hr/> 214

Provisions of Hospitals and Clinics

Hospitals:

Ashford Hospital, London Road, Ashford.
Staines Hospital, Kingston Road, Staines.

Chest Clinic:

Chest Clinic, Ashford Hospital, London Road, Ashford.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, etc.:

These are provided by the Middlesex County Council at the following addresses:

“The Grange,” Gresham Road, Staines.
The Health Centre, Stanwell Road, Ashford.
Laleham Village Hall, Laleham.
Stanwell Clinic, Hadrian Way, Stanwell.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25 & over	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	2	3	12	1	1	—	21
Whooping Cough	1	—	3	2	4	8	—	—	1	19
Acute Polio- myelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	38	116	179	190	172	704	25	5	8	1,437

	Under 5 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65 & over	Total
Acute pneumonia	—	—	1	—	—	1
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	3	—	—	3
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	3	—	—	3
Food poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

NOTIFICATIONS

DEATHS

Age		NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS			
Periods		Pulm.		Non-Pulm.		Pulm.		Non-Pulm.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2— 4	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44	...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64	...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65—74	...	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
75— 84	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		8	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
		10		2					

GENERAL HEALTH MATTERS

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were notified, but it is quite probable that there were some that were not notified. This might be due to mild cases not being seen by their doctor, or where a doctor is seen, food poisoning might not be diagnosed and notified, unless the causative organism had been identified by laboratory investigation.

Laundry Service

This service continued on the same lines as in previous years. Using the provisions of the Public Health Act, the Council provides a free service for the cleansing and washing of the bed linen of incontinent persons living at home. The local laundry collects the soiled bedding after it has been rough-sluiced in the home. Sixteen elderly persons used this service at a total cost of £24 3s. 0d. for the year. This cost is negligible in comparison to the contribution to the well-being of these old persons and their relatives.

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 50

This Act enables the Council to arrange burial of a body when no other arrangements are made. No action was necessary during 1961.

Establishments for Massage and Special Treatment

Registration of this type of premises is required under the Middlesex County Council Acts 1944, Part XII. Seven such premises are registered, mainly for the practice of chiropody.

Water

Arrangements for the supply of water continue unchanged. Practically the whole of the area is supplied by the South West Suburban Water Company which also supplies adjoining districts. The Company takes water from the River Thames and the water is pumped direct to supply after rapid filtration and chlorination. The water continues to be satisfactory in quality and quantity and it is not necessary to impose restrictions on the supply of drinking water. The water has no plumbo-solvent action and it has not been necessary to take any action in respect of any form of contamination.

The Water Company takes daily bacteriological samples of the treated water going into supply. Samples of the raw river water are taken once per month and additional raw water samples are taken

whenever advisable. These samples are examined by an independent Laboratory and the reports are available to this Council. Additional samples are taken by the Water Company at intervals for specific purposes e.g. detection of Radio Activity.

The number of dwellings in the area is 14,931. All of these are supplied direct from the mains except 17 riverside bungalows on the Surrey Bank of the River Thames which have individual shallow sub-soil water supplies. This sub-soil water is not a satisfactory supply and during the year an agreement was concluded with the Water Undertakers for the extension of water mains by way of a guarantee by the Council under the provisions of the Water Act, 1945. This new water main to serve the riverside bungalows was almost completed at the end of the year. A typical report on a sample of drinking water is appended

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance: Clear and bright.	Turbidity	...	...	0.4
Colour 7	Odour ... slightly "chlorinous"			
pH 7.3	Free Carbon Dioxide	...		18
Electric Conductivity ... 575	Total Solids	...	...	395
Chlorine present	Alkalinity as			
as Chloride ∴ ... 29	Calcium Carbonate	...		195
Hardness: Total 265	Carbonate 195, Non-Carbonate 70			
Nitrate Nitrogen 5.2	Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ... 0.000	Oxygen Absorbed	...		0.60
Albuminoid Nitrogen ... 0.017	Residual Chlorine	...		0.08
Metals — Iron, Zinc, Copper and	Lead: absent.			

Bacteriological Results

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C. 1 per ml.	2 days at 37°C. 1 per ml.	3 days at 20°C. 1 per ml.
Presumptive	<i>Present in</i>	<i>Absent from</i>	<i>Probable number</i>
Coli-aerogenes			
Reaction ...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli.			
(Type 1) ...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii			
Reaction ...	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is hard in character but its hardness and

its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These are satisfactory results showing effective treatment and indicating a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

Public Swimming Baths

I have reported in previous years on the provision for swimming in the area and the need for new swimming facilities, and I am glad to know the Council has been considering the question with a view to a new swimming pool being provided.

Sewage and Sewage Disposal

The Council has now completed its sewerage schemes for the district and the only cesspools now remaining are those in outlying parts of the area, with the exception of the new houses recently erected in Moor Lane, Staines which are connected to cesspools. Tenants today refuse to accept the restrictions on the use of water imposed by cesspool drainage and complain strongly of this form of drainage.

The laying of the sewers in the Poyle area resulted in the abolition of a further 21 cesspools and 9 pail closets.

Refuse Collection

The Council has had considerable difficulty in maintaining a weekly service because of the problem of obtaining sufficient labour to carry out this essential service. Heavier demands are now being made on the service with the increase in packaging materials delivered to the household and the advent of the supermarket has meant that this type of food premises has large quantities of packaging material to dispose of. The largest of the supermarkets is installing a smokeless incinerator at the rear of their premises to deal with its own waste. Modern smokeless incinerators specially designed for this purpose are very satisfactory, but they are also expensive and the smaller shops cannot afford them. Disposal of domestic refuse continues to be by incineration at the Charlton Refuse Plant operated jointly by the Borough of Twickenham and the Urban Districts of Staines and Sunbury.

REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Clearance of unfit houses and the creation of smoke control areas under the Clean Air Act were prominent among the activities of this Department during 1961, although essential routine inspections such as inspection of food premises and slaughterhouse continued.

The Council's first Smoke Control Area came into operation on December 1st, 1960. Surveys for a second and third area were carried out during 1961, the object being to have the second area in operation on December 1st 1962, and the third area during 1963.

45 houses were represented as being unfit for human habitation, and it is anticipated that the current programme of clearance of unfit houses will be completed by 1964.

There was a reduction in the number of applications for improvement grants, and, as in former years, these continued to be from owner/occupiers. The improvement grant scheme has now been in operation since 1949 and I believe it has now become clear that owners of rented properties will not avail themselves of this scheme, and the permitted increase of rent to $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the owner's share of the cost under the Housing Act 1961 will not make the scheme more attractive. There is a substantial number of older dwellings in this area without a bath, hot water supply or wash basin and with external W.C. Many of these are capable of improvement but there seems little prospect of owners coming forward voluntarily to improve them. I do not consider there will be any increase in the number of houses improved until the legislation is amended to enable the Council to serve a notice upon the owner of any house suitable and worth improving requiring him to improve his property with the aid of an improvement grant. Such powers would facilitate the improvement of terraced houses where often the owner occupied house in the terrace is improved and repaired and the tenanted house is not.

During the last few years back filling of worked out gravel pits has become quite a large undertaking in the area and large areas of derelict land and water filled pits are being filled with suitable materials under the supervision of the Public Health Inspectors. Power for this purpose is given under the Middlesex County Acts. It seems that with large scale building operations proceeding in London and Middlesex demolition and excavated material is available to South West Middlesex where there are many gravel workings and the lorry has a return load of ballast or sand. Constant inspection is necessary to ensure that unsuitable materials or excessive quantities of certain materials are not deposited into wet pits where they could subsequently cause a serious nuisance from the very offensive smell that arises when the water becomes "septic" and gives off offensive gases.

It is very difficult to deal with a pit once this happens, hence the need for prevention by watching the materials being tipped. Back filling is followed by levelling and surfacing with top soil whenever this is available.

The older pits now being filled did not have a planning condition that they should be levelled and surfaced with topsoil to restore them, but contractors and site operators are persuaded and encouraged to set aside all suitable material especially top soil for later use in restoring the land. This means twice handling the material and is less profitable to the operator, but generally they are co-operative.

The following pages show the work of your staff during 1961.

Housing Statistics

Number of dwelling houses inspected under Public Health or Housing Acts	1,971
Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied: —	
After informal action	121
After formal notice under	
(a) Public Health Acts—	
by owner	44
by local authority	—
(b) Housing Act, 1957, S.9 —	
by owner	5
by local authority	1
Unfit houses closed or demolished during 1961	
Houses subject to Demolition Orders	10
Houses included in Clearance Areas	—
Unfit houses Closed	2
Unfit houses represented during 1961	
Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders	33
Demolition Orders	10
Closing Orders	2

Summary of Inspections

Inspections under Public Health or Housing Acts ...	...	1,971
Improvement Grants ...	...	206
Rent Act 1957 ...	...	121
Overcrowding ...	...	21
Food Premises ...	...	1,407
Slaughterhouses ...	...	326
Pet Animals Act ...	...	9
Cesspools ...	...	105
Drainage Works ...	...	567
Drain Testing ...	...	34
Heating Appliances (Fireguard) Regulations, 1953 ...	...	11
Factories and Outworkers, Offices ...	...	74
Clean Air Act, 1956 ...	...	3,590
Rodent Control (inspections and survey) ...	...	3,893
Vermin ...	...	62
Keeping of Animals and Poultry ...	...	82
Water Supplies ...	...	16
Infectious Diseases ...	...	59
Offensive Trades ...	...	68
Caravans ...	...	268
Places of Public Entertainment ...	...	35
Shops Act ...	...	49
Hawkers ...	...	57
Public Conveniences ...	...	19
Schools ...	...	4
River Pollution ...	...	31
Refuse Deposits ...	...	235
Hairdressers ...	...	23
Laundry Service ...	...	162
Miscellaneous ...	...	410
		<hr/>
		13,915
		<hr/>

Number of Notices Served

	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Formal</i>
Housing Act 1957, Section 9 ...	3	3
Housing Act 1957, Overcrowding ...	—	—
Public Health Act 1936 ...	161	38
Food & Drugs Act 1955 ...	144	—
Factories Act 1937 ...	4	—
Pests Act 1949 ...	1	—
Shops Act 1950 ...	3	—
		<hr/>
		316
		<hr/>
		41
		<hr/>

Rent Act, 1957, Certificates of Disrepair

Number of applications for certificates	...	...	...	12
Number of decisions not to issue certificates	...	...	...	—
Number of decisions to issue certificates				
(a) in respect of some, but not all defects	...	...	...	6
(b) in respect of all defects	...	...	...	6
Number of undertakings given by landlords	...	...	...	7
Number of undertakings refused by local authority			...	—
Number of certificates issued	...	...	...	5

Applications for Cancellation of Certificates

Applications by landlords to local authority for cancellation of certificates	4
Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Decisions by local authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Certificates cancelled by local authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

This district has few residential caravan sites. Most of the available land forms part of the Greater London green belt and it has been the Council's policy for many years to refuse consent for caravan sites under planning powers and also under the provisions of the Middlesex County Council Acts. The Public Health Committee is responsible for the issue of site licences under the Act, and the Council has now resolved that the model conditions of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government should apply to residential sites.

Eight small residential sites have a total of forty-six caravans; three of these were sites for single caravans, two of them being caravans occupied by caretaker employees on gravel extraction sites.

Housing Act, 1957, Overcrowding

Some years ago the Council rehoused all statutorily overcrowded families known at the time. The legal standard made nearly thirty years ago is a low one, and is out of date, but I believe there is now very little statutory overcrowding in this district.

Complaints

During the year 339 complaints were received from the public; all were investigated and appropriate action taken.

Improvement Grants

Improvement grant applications were fewer than in 1960, 29 Standard grants (47 in 1960) and 6 Discretionary grants (16 in 1960) were approved. The total amount of grants paid to owners during 1961 was — Standard Grants, £3,790 5s. 0d. and Discretionary Grants, £2,422 0s. 0d. The major portion of this is borne by the Exchequer. Elsewhere in this report I have mentioned that most of the applications come from owner/occupiers and that owners of rented dwellings do not find the scheme attractive. I think the reason for this is because owners of rented houses are not interested in the investment income from an improved dwelling and prefer to sell when the opportunity occurs.

I am still occasionally approached by owner/occupiers who have carried out a bathroom improvement without grant because they did not know of the scheme until afterwards when no grant can be made. It seems continual publicity is necessary to make the scheme more widely known and I believe this is more effectively done at national level using modern advertising technique. Local publicity has been by displaying posters on public notice boards, issuing pamphlets and giving personal advice.

Every effort is made to assist applicants by calling at the house to be improved, advising how best the improvement should be done, giving a rough estimate of the cost based on knowledge of the cost of similar schemes, suggesting suitable builders and where necessary an architect or surveyor to prepare plans. This is done because so few owner/occupiers of small houses have any knowledge of how to arrange such matters and usually cannot afford or are unwilling to pay for professional advice.

Clean Air Act, 1956

Smoke Control Areas

This area is largely residential and smoke from industrial premises is negligible, but since the principal source of atmospheric pollution is domestic smoke the greatest contribution that can be made to clean air is the elimination of domestic smoke.

The Council's first Smoke Control Area comprising 2,500 dwellings in 1,824 acres, came into operation on 1st December, 1960, and the year under review was its first full year in operation.

Generally, householders co-operated very well indeed, thus confirming the impression gained during the initial survey that the public was in favour of the idea of clean air, and any opposition was from a small minority.

The final accounts show that the cost of converting grates to enable householders to comply with the Order was within the estimated cost of making the Order and in the case of privately owned houses was substantially below the estimate because many owners or tenants who were entitled to claim grant did not do so. Many of these are burning such fuels as Cleanglow and Coalite which will burn on any grate, but their fuel costs would be reduced if they had improved grates and burned a cheaper fuel.

The Council's proportion of the cost of grants to owner/occupiers of private dwellings was £2,804 0s. 0d.

Also included in this area is a Council Estate of 170 houses where the cost of replacing obsolete grates was £7,819 0s. 0d. Four-tenths of this; £3,128 0s. 0d. was borne by the Exchequer.

A survey for a second Smoke Control Area comprising 878 dwellings was completed and approved by the Council and subsequently confirmed by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government. This Order will come into force on December 1st 1962.

During the course of the house to house survey for this second area the opportunity was taken to ascertain the householders reaction to smoke control areas. Out of 838 households 66% were favourable to the idea of clean air and the making of smoke control areas, 9% were not in favour, 25% "did not know" or had no comment. Included in the "don't knows" were all the dwellings where no responsible person was present or where the key had been left with a neighbour.

Noise

The Noise Abatement Act made a noise or vibration nuisance a statutory nuisance under the Public Health Act, 1936, but there is the defence not uncommon in public health legislation, that the best practicable means have been used for prevention of nuisance. This is a noisy age and there is no doubt people have become more conscious of noise nuisance and if nothing worse, are greatly irritated by noise. In this district noise from aeroplanes, particularly jet aeroplanes using London Airport, is very great and affects parts of the area severely but this cannot be dealt with as a nuisance under the Act and has to be accepted as part of the price of progress.

Seven complaints of noise were dealt with during 1961, five of these concerned noise from factories in residential areas; in three cases a reduction in noise level was effected after the complaints were taken up with the Management.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

	<i>No. of Premises</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>
Bakehouses	5	22
Bakers and Confectioners Shops	20	76
Butchers Shops	34	188
Beer Bottler	1	2
Cannery and Winery	1	3
Clubs	17	8
Confectionery Manufacturers	1	3
Dairies	4	29
Fish Shops (wet and dried fish)	13	41
Grocers	88	325
Greengrocers	40	79
Licensed Premises	37	5
Off-Licences	9	3
Mineral Water Manufacturer	2	6
Restaurants, Cafés and Snack Bars	38	166
School Kitchens	14	12
Slaughterhouses	1	316
Sweets and Tobacco	45	35
Wholesale Warehouses	7	24
Works Canteens	17	7
Food Storage (Hawkers)	8	57
	<hr/> 402 <hr/>	<hr/> 1,407 <hr/>

Food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955.

(a) Sale of Ice-Cream	168
(b) Meat and Sausage Manufacturers	27
(c) Fish Friers and Curers	6

Milk

The number of Dairies and Milk Distributors registered is: —

Milk Distributors	19
Dairies	4

Middlesex County Council Act 1950, S.11

Registration of Hawkers

	<i>Ice Cream</i>	<i>Fruit and Vegetables</i>	<i>Other Foods</i>
Registered during 1961 ...	1	5	2
Total registered at 31.12.61	13	17	4

Improvements effected at Food Premises

	<i>No. of Premises</i>
Cleanliness improved ...	33
Structural repairs ...	12
Ventilation improved ...	1
Equipment improved, protective screens provided ...	24
Hot water supplies provided or improved ...	8
Redecoration of premises ...	15

The following foods were surrendered in food premises as being unfit for human consumption.

3,023 cans various foods	77 lbs. pork
2,197 pkts. frozen foods etc.	1,320 lbs. beef
9 lbs. butter	6½ lbs. lamb
52 lbs. confectionery	64 lbs. Veal
123 pkts. confectionery	3 chickens
30 lbs. corned beef	11 lbs. tomato purée
602 lbs. bacon and ham	

Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses

The following table shows the number of animals killed, the carcasses inspected and details of carcasses condemned. The total number of animals killed was 7,141.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part

		<i>Cattle Excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known) ...		812	4	272	3230	2823	—
Number inspected ...	...	812	4	272	3230	2823	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned ...		—	—	—	2	4	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...		93	1	—	18	62	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	...	11.4	25	—	0.62	2.3	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned ...		—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...		2	—	—	—	13	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	...	0.24	—	—	—	0.46	—
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>							
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...		2	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Condemned meat and food is dealt with at a factory in the area where it is processed for industrial use.

Legal Proceedings

A bakery firm was fined £20 0s. 0d. with £5 5s. 0d. costs for selling at their Staines shop a loaf which was found to contain a razor blade. The firm pleaded guilty.

Two mouldy pork pies were sold at a cafe in Ashford, and the Court imposed a fine of £10 0s. 0d. with £3 3s. 0d. costs.

Proceedings were taken against a cafe on the Poyle Trading Estate for contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations. The prosecution resulted in fines totalling £26 0s. 0d. and £5 5s. 0d. costs.

A prosecution brought by the Council against a multiple store for selling a packet of frozen fish fingers in which a part of a nail had been found, was dismissed.

A multiple firm was fined £5 0s. 0d. with 10 guineas costs for selling a loaf of cut bread which was covered in green mould.

Proceedings were taken against a health food store in Ashford for contraventions of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 and the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960. The Court imposed fines totalling £58 0s. 0d. with £10 10s. 0d. costs.

Proceedings were taken against a cafe in Staines for failing to comply with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960. A fine totalling £225 0s. 0d. was imposed with £10 10s. 0d. costs.

Shops Act, 1950

Under present conditions it is no longer necessary to make inspections to enforce the closing hours for shops, except as regards the small general shops, and since mobile shops do not have to comply with the Shops Act closing hours an anomalous position is created. 49 inspections under the Shops Act were made during the year. Three complaints of excessive hours worked by young persons were investigated and found to be within the hours permitted under The Children and Young Persons Employment Act, 1938.

Rodent Control

The Rodent Control Service continued on the lines of former years in that the services of the Council's Operator were available without charge to occupiers of dwelling houses, and a small charge made to business premises. Contracts for servicing business premises are not accepted. The principal sources of infestations in this residential area are private dwelling houses where rats are often found under sheds, poultry houses and pigsties, and the offer of free treatment encourages owners and occupiers to avail themselves of the service by notifying infestations and facilitates the operator's inspections and surveys.

The service continues to be much appreciated by the public. 492 complaints of rat or mice infestations were notified to the Public Health Department, 632 premises were treated for rats and 114 for mice infestations. The total number of visits including surveys was 3,893. 65 business premises received treatment on a recoverable basis.

Requests to deal with wasps nests continue to be received during the late summer. The wasp is a beneficial insect during the early part of the year and destruction of nests was only carried out when nuisance was caused to householders, for example when nests were under floor-boards or under low roofs. 63 nests were destroyed.

The Department continued to give advice on treatment to eradicate insect pests. It seems that infestation by “woolly bears” (the larvæ of the carpet beetle) and by silver fish are on the increase. A number of new houses were infested by gooseberry mites, these being extremely difficult to eradicate.

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

PART I OF THE ACT

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	4	4	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	217	74	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	9	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	238	74	4	—

—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	1	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel— Making, etc.	19	—	—	—	—	—